

25X1A

Approved For Release 1999/09/09 : CIA-RDP82-00457R005000040000-1

INTERVIEW 7

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 7-20-59

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Panama

SUBJECT Current Plans of Partido del Pueblo

PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO. March-May 1950

1. Until 4 May 1950 the activities of the Partido del Pueblo (Communist Party of Panama) were apparently not affected by the government resolution outlawing Communism. Prior to that time there had been several meetings at Party headquarters to discuss the possible result of the resolution, but there were no apparent efforts being made to destroy files or correspondence. On 3 May Party leaders were preparing a demand, to be placed before the Supreme Court, claiming that the government resolution was unconstitutional. The general impression at Party headquarters was that the resolution had existed unsigned ever since Arias took over the presidency, and that it had been sponsored by U.S. representatives. 25X1X
2. On 27 April Celso Solano, Secretary General of the Partido del Pueblo made a few statements concerning the position and aims of the Party.* He stated that the Party plans to have an official publication to carry news to its members, but that it would not be an obvious Party organ and would be edited in a manner to invite collaboration of individuals or groups outside the Party. The Party is considering buying its own printing press to avoid "interference by the American Embassy." A recent attempt to publish El Pueblista was discontinued after the first issue. The printers, Tipografia La Moderna, refused to continue printing it because the U.S. Embassy allegedly requested the printers to hinder publication of a Partido del Pueblo paper.
3. The new paper would promote the following general Party policies:
- a. The Party and the paper will be opposed to governments established through coups d'etat or other unconstitutional means.
 - b. It will oppose any military (Panama Police) government or dictatorship.
 - c. It will oppose any blood shed through clashes between civilian groups, between these groups and the police or factions of the police.
 - d. It will conduct a campaign to obtain reductions in the cost of living.
 - e. It will vigorously promote the Pro-Peace movement.

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 15 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. _____
No Change In Class. ☐
☒ Declassified ☐
Class. Changed To: TS S C
Auth.: HR 70-2
CDA-RDP82Z00957R005000040007-9

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

-2-

CONFIDENTIAL

4. In explaining these policies, Solano stated that the Partido del Pueblo opposes the formation of military governments in Latin America because the establishment of such governments is a current policy of the United States. The United States allegedly accomplishes this by training Latin American officers in the Canal Zone and in the United States and encouraging them to return to their respective countries to form military governments. These governments can then be controlled by the United States through the U.S. general staff and personal and official connections with the Latin American military participants who have formed a military government in their own country. Solano stated that he believes that these governments are encouraged to prepare for a war with Russia.
5. The Partido del Pueblo also opposes the holding of any strike or other activity which might embarrass the administration and create a situation favorable to the overthrow of Arnulfo Arias. Solano stated that the Partido del Pueblo was definitely not planning or supporting a strike of students, Tenants League, or labor unions dedicated to the overthrow of the police or the Arias government. 25X1X
6. For several weeks Carlos Cajal, student and Communist leader, has been trying to obtain a mimeograph machine to edit a bi-weekly newspaper. He plans to distribute this paper in the interior as well as in the stronghold of Panama and Colon. He stated that one of the programs which would be advocated would be agitation for a law to improve the living conditions of the workers in the interior who are "exploited as beasts of burden." On 1 April Cajal was still waiting for sufficient funds to purchase the machine and other necessary equipment. He is reported to have stated that he may be able to buy a machine from the Army but that he had not yet been able to go to Albrook Field to look into the matter. Cajal, Carlos Mendoza, Celso Solano, Hugo Victor (Secretary of Propaganda) and Xenia Molina (Financial Secretary)** met at Party headquarters on 10 April to discuss the new publication. At that time, it was suggested that the paper, to have a literary-political slant, would bring the activities and aims of the Party to all members and would also carry a review of modern literature. 25X1X
7. [redacted] there have been indications of a possible split in the Partido del Pueblo. In early April two groups within the Party were reported to be struggling for control. One group is made up of intellectual aristocrats under the leadership of Celso Solano; the other group, which is supported by colored and university members, is directed by Carlos Cajal who wants a stronger Marxist party which will follow the Party line closely and will take stronger and more definite action.
8. As of 10 March 1950 the Partido del Pueblo had 837 registered members residing principally in Panama and Colon, and to some extent, in Chorrera and Chiriqui. There are an estimated 516 native and foreign non-registered Communists and fellow travellers. During recent months the Party has been trying to strengthen its organization in Colon and Chiriqui. The Party has been increasing its propaganda efforts through the Permanent Peace Committee and through support of the Tenant's League, and the Federacion Sindical Trabajadores de la Republica de Panama (FSTRP). 25X1)
9. Solano stated that he expected to travel to Europe during the latter part of the year to attend a world peace conference in Rome, which was being planned as a result of the meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, in March 1950.
- 25X1A [redacted] Comment. These statements were made just before May Day and prior to the announcement of the government resolution outlawing Communism. There was no indication that the Partido del Pueblo expected any action by the Arias government to suppress the activity of the Party. Any change in government was believed to be disadvantageous to the Party and efforts were to be made to avoid any action which would endanger the stability of the present administration.
- 25X1A [redacted] Comment. Hugo Victor is described as an ideological Communist, a Marxist fanatic, who continues trying to eliminate Party members who seek personal gain or weaken the Party's militant structure. Xenia Molina is also a Party fanatic and does most of the financial work of collections and disbursements.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL